Eau de Rabel, consisting of acid. sulphur. 100 parts; alcohol, 300 parts. The acid should be poured upon the alcohol slowly.

Baume de Compingt has not yet been analyzed, but appears to contain an empyreumatic oil.

Eau de Hepp is a modification of the Eau de Pagliari.—*Med. Times and Gaz.* Sept. 10, 1853.

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18. *Administration of Ether in Capsules.*—In the *Journal de Médecine et de Chirurgie Pratiques* for April, 1853, M. CLERTAN, of Dijon, states that he has for some time been accustomed to give ether in capsules in nervous affections. After several years of observation, by himself and others, he concludes that ether, when introduced in a known dose, pure, and without loss, into the stomach, has an effect which was totally unknown until the preparation of the ether pearls (*perles d'éther*). According to the old plan, the ether became partly volatilized before passing half-way down the œsophagus; and what arrived in the stomach was dissolved in water, and in a state favourable to rapid and sudden volatilization. M. Clertan has several times seen neuralgia, hemicrania, and gastralgia arrested instantaneously by from one to three of these capsules; while ether draughts, and ether in syrup, had been largely given without any effect.

The editor of the *Union Médicale* for April 12, in noticing M. Clertan's preparation, states that the ether capsules are already employed extensively by M. Trousseau, M. Pidoux, and other practitioners in Paris. The advantages of the capsules are:—

1. The ether can be administered in a known dose—each capsule containing four or five drops.
2. The capsules are inodorous; so that ether can, without their knowledge, be given to persons to whom its smell is repulsive.
3. The capsules permit neither evaporation nor decomposition of the ether; they may be kept a year at least, or indefinitely, according to M. Clertan.
4. The ether arrives in the stomach without irritating the membrane of the mouth or pharynx, or producing cough; and it produces its sedative action by its rapid absorption.—*Assoc. Med. Journ.* Sept. 2, 1853.

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19. *Mode of preparing the Concentrated Solution of Perchloride of Iron.*—In our last No., page 216, we noticed the method proposed by M. Pravaz, for coagulating the blood in aneurismal tumours, by means of a solution of perchloride of iron. The following is the method for preparing this solution as given by M. BURIN DE BUISSON, pharmacien, of Lyons:—

Take of sulphate of iron of commerce (emerald colour), two pounds; water, six pounds; pure iron filings, the fifth part of a pound; sulphuric acid, half an ounce: put the whole into an enamelled cast-iron vessel, and leave the latter upon the sand-bath until gas is no longer given off; filter, add to the fluid half a pound of liquid hydrosulphuric acid, and allow to rest for twelve hours. Put, after that time, the solution upon the fire, boil for half an hour, and filter. To the filtered liquid add six ounces and a half of pure concentrated sulphuric acid; and place the mixture into an enamelled cast-iron vessel, which should be but half filled. Boil, and add, in small quantities, pure nitric acid, until it causes no longer the escape of red fumes. Remove the vessel from the fire, add to the fluid twenty-five or thirty times its weight of cold water, and the whole of the iron will be precipitated in the state of peroxide by the addition of a slight excess of ammonia. Wash the precipitate by decantation with pure water a great many times, and dry it in the air by spreading it in thin layers upon linen.

This dry and pulverized oxide is then calcined to redness in a large and shallow iron vessel, so that the temperature may not rise too high. This is the martial saffron of the shops, which is, in fact, pure peroxide of iron when prepared as above.

The perchloride of iron is then obtained in the following manner: Take of the peroxide of iron, resulting from the process just described, six ounces and a half; pure and white hydrochloric acid, two pounds; mix, and allow the action to go on without fire for five or six hours; then put the vessel on a water-bath, and boil until the almost complete solution of the oxide is obtained; this should be done in a porcelain capsule, weighed beforehand. The liquid is decanted to separate the undissolved oxide, and the former is carefully evaporated upon the water-bath, constantly stirring, to the consistence of thick syrup, which is then weighed. Half this weight of distilled water is then added, the heat is kept up for a few moments, and the whole is thrown on the filter. The capsule and the filter should now be washed with a quantity of water equal to that used in the last place, and to the first fluid obtained, as much of the second is added, to get a mixture of the density of from 43.5 to 44 degrees.

By proceeding in this manner a very limpid fluid is obtained, with a slight acid reaction, but perfectly pure, having reached the maximum of saturation, and always identical. It may be kept without any of the salt being thrown down, provided the bottle be well stopped; the colour is dark-brown when the liquid is looked at in full, and of a greenish-gold colour when held to the light, or seen in a thin stratum. Five or six drops of this fluid, mixed with the white of an egg diluted with six drachms of water, are sufficient to coagulate the whole into a mass in the space of fifteen seconds. This mass firmly adheres to the bottom of the glass when the latter is turned up, and takes a pretty long time before it slowly drops, when the watery parts begin to run off, as the serum separates from coagulated blood.

At the meeting of the Surgical Society of Paris, held May 4, 1853, M. Debout presented the two carotids of a horse, into which perchloride of iron had been injected. In one of these vessels, for the distance of two inches, the artery being held by the fingers above and below, only six drops of the perchloride had been thrown. The clot formed had, however, been redissolved by the current of blood, and carried into the torrent of the circulation. The lining membrane of this vessel was healthy, except a small spot where an abscess was about to form. In the other carotid, fifteen drops of the perchloride had been injected for two inches and a half of its length, the upper and lower part of this length of artery being also compressed by the fingers. This vessel remained plugged all the time the animal lived. On a *post-mortem* examination, the whole length of the clot was found adherent to the parietes of the artery, the lining membrane being the seat of a suppurative inflammation. The vessel was quite obliterated, both above and below, in consequence of adhesive inflammation.

In a subsequent meeting, M. Debout gave a minute description both of the experiment and of the *post-mortem* appearances, and concluded that M. Pravaz, the discoverer of this property of the perchloride, was right in advising injections of very small doses. M. Debout very properly added that compression of the artery above the sac (as proposed and carried out by Dr. Bellingham, of Dublin) should be resorted to as an adjuvant of the injection, as there is a tendency in the blood remaining free in the artery to break down the clot formed by the perchloride. The author of the paper mentioned a case of aneurism at the bend of the elbow, following venesection, in the sac of which coagulation was obtained by a continuous galvanic current; compression of the vessel was neglected, and a week after the formation of the clot the latter was destroyed and washed away by the force of the arterial circulation.—*Lancet*, June 18, 1853.

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20. *Ferruginous Collodion.*—Having observed the utility of the salts of iron in erysipelas, M. ARAN, to facilitate their application, combined them with collodion, forming a preparation which united the compressive and astringent effects. It consists of equal parts of collodion and Bestuchef's tincture (ethereal tincture of perchloride of iron). Spread on the skin, it forms a somewhat thinner pellicle than ordinary collodion, but it is much more supple and resisting, so that the limb can be moved in any direction without the cracking which takes place when collodion alone is used. Its adhesion is also more prolonged. —*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* July, 1853, from *Bull. de Thérapeutique*, t. xliv.

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21. *Trisnitrate of Bismuth adulterated with Arsenic.*—This medicine, so valuable in many forms of dyspepsia and diarrhœa, is often so carelessly prepared as to contain a quantity of arsenic more than sufficient to interfere with its therapeutic action, and to produce most unpleasant consequences. The *Annals*